

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed August 6, 2008, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6-9 and 11-13 and 15-16 remain in this application. Claims 5, 10 and 14 have been canceled without prejudice, and claims 1, 6, 11-13 and 15-16 are independent. Applicants reserve the right to reintroduce subject matter deleted herein at a later time during the prosecution of this application or continuing applications.

In the Office Action, claims 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. Without agreeing with the position forwarded in the Office Action, and in the interest of furthering the prosecution and expediting allowance of the present Application, claims 15-16 has been amended for better form that more clearly recites statutory subject matter, and claim 14 has been canceled without prejudice. It is

respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. §101 has been overcome and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 5 and 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 5 and 10 contain patentable subject matter. By means of the present amendment, independent claims 1, 6, 11-13 and 15-16 have been amended to include the features of allowable claims 5 or 10 which have been canceled without prejudice.

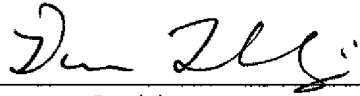
Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 6, 11-13 and 15-16 are allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-4 and 7-9 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from amended independent claims 1 and 6.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to

submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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